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**Urban District Council
of
Newbiggin-by-the-Sea**

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1954

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Newbiggin-by-the-Sea.

Madam Chairman and Councillors,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for 1954. The vital statistics are quite satisfactory. The birth rate has been maintained and is higher than the national average ; the death rate is less than in the previous year and is lower than the national average and the infantile mortality rate fell to 22·599, compared with the figure of 25·5 per 1,000 live births in England and Wales as a whole in 1954, and 35·29 in Newbiggin in 1953.

The number of deaths from malignant neoplasms again declined and the death rate from this cause was 1·11 per 1,000 of the population, compared with 1·51 in 1953 and 2·25 in 1952. The corresponding figure for 1954 in England and Wales was 2·035.

There was only one death from Tuberculosis, giving a death rate from this cause, of 0·10 per 1,000.

Unfortunately a substantial increase in the notified cases of Tuberculosis took place. There is however, some reason to believe that this is due to improved diagnostic facilities and more accurate diagnosis and it is hoped that the increase will be temporary.

Notifications of other infectious diseases continued to be low in number and Diphtheria remained absent from the community.

The appointment of a full time Sanitary Inspector took place in the Summer of 1954. There has long been a need for such an appointment and it means that more attention can be given to improving the sanitary and environmental conditions of the community and to bringing about a higher standard of hygiene in food-shops and food-preparing and catering establishments.

The impending slum-clearance programme too, will be facilitated.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the members of the Council and the staffs of the Health and other departments for the consideration and help they have given me.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

C. B. McGREGOR,
M.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health,
Urban District of Newbiggin-by-the-Sea.

URBAN DISTRICT OF NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA

OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health	CATHERINE B. MCGREGOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Assistant Medical Officer	KATHLEEN DICK, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector	H. SELBY ROBSON, M.R.S.I. resigned 9.5.54. H. S. WILSON, M.S.I.A., appointed 30.8.54.
Offices of the U. D. C.	Council Offices, Front Street, Newbiggin.
Telephone	Newbiggin 350.
Offices of the M.O.H.	146, Station Road, Ashington.
Telephone	Ashington 2287.
Residence of the M.O.H.	36, Churchburn Drive, Morpeth.
Telephone	Morpeth 519.
Residence of the A.M.O.H.	21, Kendor Grove, Morpeth.
Telephone	Morpeth 647.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The Urban District of Newbiggin-by-the-Sea has an area of 1,841 acres. It adjoins the Morpeth Rural District to the north, Ashington Urban District to the north and west, while its southern boundary is formed by the River Wansbeck and its eastern by the sea. The main centre of population is at Newbiggin itself which is separated by a stretch of agricultural land from the colliery village of North Seaton.

The chief industry is coal-mining which is carried out at two pits in the district, one at Newbiggin and the other at North Seaton.

There is a fine sandy beach which is, unfortunately, being somewhat spoiled by the deposits of sea coal washed on to the shore as the result of tipping waste material from Lynemouth Colliery to the north and elsewhere along the coast.

Some progress was made during the year, towards the establishment of a controlled camping site on the moor. This is being developed by private enterprise and the Council has laid down certain requirements and conditions to be observed.

Additional water supply points have been provided. Suitable arrangements will be made for drainage from the site and refuse is being cleared by the Council's scavenging wagons. This camp should be an asset to the town and will undoubtedly attract many holidaymakers.

Occupation is permitted only during the holiday season and all caravans must be removed at the end of each summer.

Newbiggin also has a golf course, tennis courts, bowling green and a fine promenade as well as many of the usual seaside attractions for visitors.

Area in Acres	1,841
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population mid-1954	9,950
Rateable Value	£43,573
One Penny Rate produces	£169
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1954)	2,925

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

Live Births :	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	171	78	93
Illegitimate	6	5	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	177	83	94
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			17.79
Standard Birth Rate (Crude Birth Rate x Comparability Factor 0.99)			17.61
Still Births :	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	6	6	—
Illegitimate	1	1	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	7	7	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Rate per 1,000 of the total (live and still) births			38.04
Rate per 1,000 of the total population			0.70

DEATHS

	Total	Male	Female
	92	54	38
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population			9.25
Standard Death Rate (Crude Death Rate x Comparability Factor 1.14)			10.73
Deaths from Puerperal Causes (heading 30 of the Registrar-General's short list) :			
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion			1
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births			5.43

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year :

All infants per 1,000 live births	22.599
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	23.39
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	11.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	Nil

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age :

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	2	1	1

The Registrar-General supplies the following :

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1954.

	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	—
2. Tuberculosis (other forms)	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach	3	1
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	—
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast	—	1
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	—	—
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	2	1
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	1
16. Diabetes	—	—
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	11	11
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	8	1
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	1
20. Other Heart Diseases	11	12
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	1	—
22. Influenza	1	1
23. Pneumonia	3	—
24. Bronchitis	3	—
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	1
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	1
31. Congenital Malformations	—	—
32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	5	4
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	1
34. All other Accidents	—	1
35. Suicide	—	—
36. Homicide and Operations of War	—	—
	54	38

Deaths of Infants under 1 year :

	Male	Female
Legitimate	3	1
Illegitimate	—	—
	3	1

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH IN NEWBIGGIN.

	Total No.	% of Total Deaths
Diseases of the Heart and Circulation	35	38.04
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	22	23.91
Malignant Neoplasms	11	11.96
	68	73.91

INFANTILE MORTALITY 1954

	Under 1 day	1—6 days	1—2 wks.	2—3 wks.	3—4 wks.	Total Under 1 mth.	1—3 mths.	3—6 mths.	6—9 mths.	9—12 mths.	Total Under 1 year
Birth Injury	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Prematurity	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	4

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service in the laboratory situated at Newcastle General Hospital. The extent to which the facilities have been utilised is shown below :

Specimen sent by	Specimen	Pos.	Neg.
General Practitioner	Faeces for Pathogens	—	1
Regional Hospital Board Chest Physician	Sputum for B. Tuberculosis	2	27
General Practitioners	Sputum for B. Tuberculosis	—	3
General Practitioner	Swab for Haem. Streptococcus	—	1

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The ambulance service in Newbiggin is provided by the Northumberland County Council, with ambulances stationed at Ashington. At North Seaton Colliery the Miners' Welfare Committee continues to run its own ambulance service, but any North Seaton resident not entitled to this service can obtain the use of a County Council ambulance when necessary.

NURSING IN THE HOME

This service is administered and provided by the Northumberland County Council, and nurses are stationed as follows :

Newbiggin	3
North Seaton	1

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

These are provided by the County Council and clinics are held at the Child Welfare Centre, Jubilee Terrace, Newbiggin as follows :

Child Welfare Clinic	Every Thursday, morning and afternoon.
Diphtheria Immunisation	Wednesday morning, at 4-weekly intervals.
Anti-natal Clinic	Every Tuesday afternoon.

Clinics are also held at 18 High Double Row, North Seaton, as follows :

Child Welfare Clinic	Every Monday afternoon.
Ante-natal Clinic	Friday afternoon, fortnightly.

SECTION C

WATER

Water to the district is supplied by Tynemouth Corporation, with the exception of North Seaton Village (18 houses) which is still supplied by water from North Seaton Colliery. With the exception of 24 houses, the whole of the district is served by internal taps.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

All drainage work carried out is inspected before being passed. Generally, the sewerage of the area is satisfactory, with the exception of a low-lying area in and around the Store Yard, which floods when high tides are accompanied by heavy rain.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

These are periodically inspected and are well maintained. The Prospect Place convenience, used at the moment by the caravan site, is quite inadequate, but with the construction of a convenience by the Lessee of the Moor the situation should be eased.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

A regular twice-weekly collection is maintained and few complaints are received.

REFUSE TIPS

The refuse tips at the Blue Holes and Sandy Lane are well maintained, controlled tipping being employed.

SHOPS AND FOOD PREMISES

A start has been made to inspect these, and to bring them up to the standard required.

SWIMMING BATHS

There are no swimming baths in the area.

ERADICATION OF VERMIN

Spraying for bed-bugs and cockroaches was carried out in nine cases. Supplies of beetle powder are given to occupiers for use in minor infestations of black beetles.

SCHOOLS

The six schools in the district all have main water supplies and water closets.

RODENT CONTROL

Work has continued on the elimination of rats from sewers, tips, business and domestic premises.

CAMPING SITES

Newbiggin Moor, used as a camping site for many years, is at last approaching some sign of order. The site has been leased to an operator, the number of caravans restricted, and water supplies laid on to the Moor.

Too many poor, unhygienic "bus-body" caravans have however been sited here, and it is intended in the future that all vans should be inspected and approved before the owners are allowed to let them. A person who pays up to £11 11s. 0d. for the hire of a caravan for a week surely should find it to be waterproof, weatherproof, and to have all the amenities for a pleasant holiday, and this fact has been pointed out to the site operator who has promised his support.

With the completion of the convenience (at present under construction) this site should rank with the best sites in the country.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT — Year ending 31st December, 1954.

	No. of Defects or Contraventions of Bye-laws.	No. of Informal Notices Served.	Defects remedied by Informal Action.	No. of Statutory Notices Served.	Defects remedied by Statutory Action.	Legal Proceedings.
HOUSING						
Structural Defects	21	21	21	—	—	—
Defective Food Store	7	7	7	—	—	—
Dampness	35	35	27	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—	—
WATER SUPPLY						
Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unsatisfactory	—	—	—	—	—	—
DRAINAGE						
Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—	—
Defective	12	12	12	—	—	—
SANITARY CONVENIENCES						
Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—	—
Defective	24	—	24	—	—	—
Food Premises	14	14	12	—	—	—
Dairies	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses	2	2	2	—	—	—
Tents, Vans, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—	—	—
Factories and Workplaces	3	3	3	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals	1	1	1	—	—	—
Insanitary Ashpits and Bins	28	28	28	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations	2	—	2	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	149	123	139	—	—	—

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED.

SANITARY CONVENIENCES

	By Informal Action	By Statutory Notice	Total
Privies and Privy ashpits abolished	—	—	—
Privies and Privy ashpits repaired	1	—	1
Pail-Closets abolished	—	—	—
Water Closets provided	—	—	—
Sanitary Bins provided	—	—	—
Sanitary Bins renewed	28	—	28

DRAINAGE

New Drains constructed	105	—	105
Drains repaired or reconstructed	12	—	12
Scullery waste-pipes repaired	5	—	5
Scullery waste-pipes trapped	—	—	—
Yards repaired or reconstructed	2	—	2

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

There are in the District 22 Factories and Workshops. The following table gives details of the inspections made and the defects found during 1954.

There are no outworkers in the District.

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	8	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	11	14	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	1	1	—	—
Total	22	23	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	3	3	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences :					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes.....	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3	3	—	—	—

SECTION D

HOUSING

TABULAR STATEMENT OF HOUSING FOR THE YEAR.

Number of New Houses erected during the year.

Houses completed during the year	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority	48	—	48
(b) By any other Housing Authority	—	—	—
(c) By private persons	—	—	—

1 CLOSING AND DEMOLITION OF HOUSES.

A. Formal Action.

- (1) Number of houses demolished during 1954 as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action 2
 (Number of houses included in above which were from pre-war confirmed clearance areas Nil)
- (2) Number of houses **closed** but not demolished as a result of formal action Nil

B. Informal Action.

- (1) Number of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above Nil

2. RECONDITIONING AND REPAIR.

Number of houses made fit during 1954 by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts :

- (a) As a result of informal action 32
- (b) By owners as a result of Statutory notice —
- (c) By Local Authority in default of owners —

3. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS : HOUSING ACT, 1949.

- | | No. of Separate Houses |
|---|------------------------|
| (a) Applications submitted to Local Authority during year | 25 |
| (b) Applications rejected by Local Authority | 1 |
| (c) Applications forwarded to Ministry | — |
| (d) Applications rejected by Ministry | — |
| (e) Applications approved | 24 |
| (f) Total number of applications approved since inception of scheme ... | 158 |

SECTION E

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY

Number of Registered Dairies 3

Number of Registered Distributors 7

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

With the closing of the Central Slaughter-house at Ashington, slaughtering recommenced at two abattoirs in Newbiggin. A remarkably high standard of animal is being slaughtered, the total condemnations (July to December) being 3 Bovine Lungs and 1 Bovine Head and Tongue, all for Tuberculosis.

The total animals killed during the period were as follows :

Bovines 392. Calves 8. Sheep and Lambs 901. Pigs 423.

UN SOUND FOOD. The following is a statement of the foodstuffs voluntarily surrendered during the year and found to be unfit for human consumption.

Canned Goods (including Meat, Fruit, Vegetables, Milk, Fish and Soups)	249	tins
Cheese	18 $\frac{3}{4}$	lbs.
Slab Cake	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
Suet	20	lbs.
Fat	30	lbs.
Bacon	41	lbs.
Beef Sausage	10	lbs.
Pork Sausage	8	lbs.
Beef	50	lbs.

SECTION F

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is now provided by the Regional Hospital Board at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle.

**TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES
UNDER AGE GROUPS.**

Disease					Age unknown	Under 1 year	1—2 years	3—4 years	5—9 years	10—14 years	15—24 years	25—34 years	35—44 years	45—54 years	55—64 years	65—74 years	75 years & over	Total	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	—	1	—	—	1	1	2	—	3	1	2	4	—	15	—	3
Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	....	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas	....	....	....	....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Measles	....	....	....	....	1	3	16	28	31	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	79	—	—
Whooping Cough	....	....	....	....	—	—	2	1	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During 1954 there was no significant outbreak of any of the notifiable infectious diseases with the exception of measles which again became prevalent mainly in the months of May, June and July. In all, 79 cases were notified but no deaths occurred, attributable to this disease.

There was one death due to food poisoning but the suspected food was bought and eaten outside the district and death was not specifically certified as being due to this cause.

There were no cases of Typhoid Fever, Paratyphoid Fever or Diphtheria during the year.

Diphtheria has not been seen in Newbiggin since 1950 and no deaths have resulted from it during the past 7 years.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During the year 300 children completed a course of primary immunisation and 760 received re-inforcing injections.

At 31st December, 1954, it was estimated that the immunity index, i.e. the percentage of children who had received prophylactic treatment during the previous 5 years, were as follows :

- 8.56% of children under 1 year.
- 79.30% of children aged 1 to 4 years.
- 85.83% of children aged 5 to 14 years.
- 78.27% of all children under the age of 15 years.

As predicted in the report for 1953, these figures show a great improvement over the corresponding figures for 1953, and are extremely satisfactory.

Over the Country as a whole, the incidence of Diphtheria continues to fall and new, low figures were achieved in 1954 when only 182 cases and 9 deaths were attributed to this cause, compared with 18,596 cases and 722 deaths in 1945.

The result of the Diphtheria immunisation campaign is one of the outstanding achievements of preventive medicine but much depends on energetic continuation with the campaign.

It is pleasant to be able to report that parents in Newbiggin continue to appreciate and to use this valuable means of safeguarding their children.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1954.

Age Groups	NEW CASES					DEATHS				
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Total	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Total
	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 - 4 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 - 14 years	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
15 - 24 years	—	1	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	1
25 - 34 years	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
35 - 44 years	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45 - 54 years	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
55 - 64 years	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
65 - 75 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75 years and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	5	4	—	2	11	1	—	—	—	1

Death rate from Tuberculosis 0.10 per 1,000 population.
Case rate of Tuberculosis 1.11 per 1,000 population.
Case rate of Pulmonary Tuberculosis 0.90 per 1,000 population.
Case rate of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis 0.20 per 1,000 population.

Nine new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during 1954, an increase of 6 on the number for 1953. Two cases on Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified.

There was one death from Respiratory Tuberculosis.

Death rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis in England and Wales : 0.16 per 1,000 population.

MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS.

The following table shows the deaths, in age-groups, resulting from Malignant Neoplasms of different sites :

MORTALITY FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS.

	MALES						FEMALES					
	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 65	65 - 74	75 +	Total	35 - 44	45 - 54	55 - 64	65 - 74	75 +	Total
Breast ....	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	1	|	|	1
Bronchus....	1	|	1	|	|	2	|	|	|	|	|	1
Stomach ....	|	|	1	1	1	3	|	1	|	|	|	1
Rectum ....	|	|	1	1	|	2	|	|	|	|	|	1
Ovary ....	|	|	|	|	|	|	1	|	|	|	|	1
Leukaemia ....	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	|	1	|	|	1
Totals	1	—	3	2	1	7	1	1	1	1	—	4

In 1954 the number of males dying from this cause was 7 and the number of females 4. The corresponding figures for 1953 were 7 and 8 respectively.

Death rate from Malignant Neoplasms 1.11 per 1,000 population
Death rate from Malignant Neoplasms of Lung and Bronchus 0.201 per 1,000
Death rate from Malignant Neoplasms of Lung & Bronchus in England and Wales 0.369 per 1,000
Death rate from Malignant Neoplasms of all other sites 0.905 per 1,000
Death rate from Malignant Neoplams of all other sites, in England and Wales ... 1.666 per 1,000

